

ORDINANCE NO. 9828

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS,
ENACTING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 21 OF THE CODE OF THE
CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 2018 EDITION, AND
AMENDMENTS THERETO, PERTAINING TO THE PROHIBITION
AGAINST CONVERSION THERAPY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: The Code of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, 2018 Edition, and amendments thereto, is hereby amended by adding Chapter 6, Article 21, which reads as follows:

ARTICLE 21. CONVERSION THERAPY PROHIBITED

6-2101 **FINDINGS BY THE GOVERNING BODY.**

The Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, hereby finds that being LGBTQ is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and that practices sought to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity are an ineffective and potentially dangerous practice that can cause significant mental and physical harm. The Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, acknowledges that a vast amount of literature by professionals in health, mental health, and counseling exists that has determined there is no scientifically valid evidence that supports the practice of Conversion Therapy, and that such practice may have a significantly negative impact on an individual's well-being.

6-2102 **PURPOSE.**

The Governing Body has a compelling interest in advancing the health, safety, and welfare of all minors, including LGBTQ minors, within the City of Lawrence, Kansas. The purpose of this Article is to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all such minors from exposure to the risks and harms associated with Conversion Therapy.

6-2103 **DEFINITIONS.**

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Article, shall, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:

- (a) **Conversion Therapy** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean any practice, counseling, or purported treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy shall not include counseling that provides assistance to an individual exploring identity and development or undergoing gender transition.
- (b) **Gender expression** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean a person's expression of gender identity through appearance and behavior, including how an individual believes that they are perceived by others.

- (c) **Gender identity** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean the persistent sense of one's gender-related identity, appearance, behavior, and other characteristics of an individual, without regard to the individual's actual or assigned sex at birth.
- (d) **LGBTQ** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean a person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning.
- (e) **Minor** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.
- (f) **Provider** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean any licensed, certified, or registered medical professional or mental health professional including, but not limited to, counselors, psychologists, clinical social workers, family therapists, psychiatrists, certified substances abuse counselors, certified school counselors, behavior analysts and any professional licensed under Chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes.
- (g) **Sexual Orientation** shall, for purposes of this Article, mean a component of identity that includes a person's sexual and emotional attraction to another person and includes, but is not limited to, heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

6-2104

CONVERSION THERAPY PROHIBITED.

It shall be unlawful for any Provider to provide Conversion Therapy to a Minor.

6-2105

MUNICIPAL OFFENSE.

It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to:

- (a) Engage in conduct that violates any provision of this Article;
- (b) Aid or abet another person or entity in the violation of any provision of this Article;
- (c) Own, operate, or manage a business that employs, contracts with, or allows one or more persons or entities to offer or purport to offer Conversion Therapy; or
- (d) Advertise or use the words Conversion Therapy, ex-gay therapy, sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts, or any substantially similar wording.

6-2106

PENALTIES.

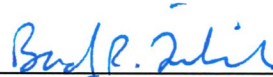
Any person or entity who violates any provision of this Article shall, upon an adjudication of guilt or the entry of a plea of no contest, be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500. Each Conversion Therapy session with a Minor shall constitute a separate offense, and any session that purports to extend from one day to another shall constitute separate offenses for each day in which a session takes place.

SECTION 2. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or is otherwise held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of any remaining parts of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, this 4th day of May, 2021.

APPROVED:



Bradley R. Finkeldei
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherri Riedemann
City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Toni R. Wheeler
City Attorney